

Amendments to the Claims:

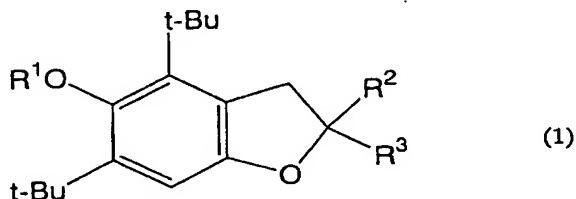
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Original) A method for prevention and/or treatment of fatty liver or hepatic disease, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):

[Chemical Formula 3]



where

R¹ is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R² and R³ are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R² and R³ may jointly form a cycloalkyl group, to a patient in need of such prevention and/or treatment.

18. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom.

19. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein R² and R³ are each an unsubstituted alkyl group.

20. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the unsubstituted alkyl group is an n-butyl group, an
n-pentyl group, an n-hexyl group, or an n-heptyl group.

21. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-
hydroxy-2,2-di-n-butyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-
5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-
butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-hexyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, or 4,6-
di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-heptyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

22. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-
hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

23. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the prevention and/or treatment of hepatic disease are
or is ascribed to leakage of hepatic enzymes.

24. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

25. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic disease associated with
the fatty liver.

26. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

27. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the hepatic disease is bacterial or chemical-induced
hepatic function disorder.

28. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the hepatic disease is chronic or acute hepatitis.

29. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the hepatitis is viral.

30. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic cirrhosis.

31. (New) The composition according to claim 17,
wherein the hepatic disease is liver cancer.